(c) The field investigations by CBI are being carried out in this case without any interruption.

**Missing customs officials working in coastal area of Tamil Nadu**

865 SHRI S MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have received reports about the missing of a few customs officials working in the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu during November, 1990, and

(b) whether Government enquired into this incident and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH). (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Eight officials of the Customs and Central Excise Collectorate, Tiruchirapalli embarked on sea patrol on 23-11-1990 from Point Calimer on Tamil Nadu Coast They were thereafter reported missing and returned safely to Rameshwaram only on 30-11-1990. Enquiries made indicate that they strayed from their course due to bad weather and also lost direction and were unable to maintain contact either with the shore party or the Collectorate Headquarters about their whereabouts

**Vacancies of Judges in High Courts and the Supreme Court**

866. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA
SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government directives relating to reservation for the Scheduled and 1990 and at present in the Supreme Court and each of the High Courts and what is the present position in this regard,

(b) what is the present procedure of appointment or promotion of a Judge in the High Courts and the Supreme Court and at what levels the suggestions emanate and are cleared and then finally decided;

(c) whether there is any proposal to cut short the delay in the procedure, unnecessary interference/blockage in the procedure in view of the serious consequences of large number of vacancies remaining unfilled; if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor, and

(d) what other steps Government propose to take to fill up these posts?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY): (a) A statement giving the required information is attached (*See* below)

(b) Appointments of the Judges of the Supreme Court are made in accordance with the provisions of Article 124 of the Constitution. Appointments of Judges of the High Courts are made in accordance with the provisions of Articles 217 and 224 of the Constitution.

(c) The Government have introduced the Constitution (Sixty-seventh Amendment) Bill, 1990 in the Lok Sabha on 18-5-1990 regarding setting up of a National Judicial Commission for appointment of Judges in the High Courts and the Supreme Court and for transfer of Judges of the High Courts.

(d) For filling up the vacancies of Judges in the High Courts and the Supreme Court the process of consultation with the Constitutional authorities is on, for making appointments.